

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NAPLES 861

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: TARANTO - PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD AND SIGN OF REBIRTH OF
CENTER-LEFT SUMMARY

IN TARANTO THE DC HAS GIVEN AN EXTRA ASSESSORSHIP TO THE PSI AS THE
PRICE FOR RECONSTITUTION OF CENTER-LEFT GIUNTA AND THERE IS BELIEF
IN THIS DISTRICT THAT THIS TYPE OF QUID PRO QUO COULD PRESAGE DC-PSI
COLLABORATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL IN DUE COURSE. ALSO WORTHY OF
NOTE IS THAT THE PCI GAINS (WHICH WERE MASKED BY THE DC'S SUCCESS
IN HOLDING ITS OWN) ARE BEING TRANSLATED INTO MORE PROGRAMMATIC
ACCORDS. THE PROVINCE OF TKO IS AGAIN A CASE IN POINT.

END OF SUMMARY

1. THE TARANTO PROVINCIAL GIUNTA HAS BEEN RECONSTITUTED. THE OLD,
CENTER-LEFT GIUNTA FELL SOME MONTHS AGO UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE PSI,

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WHICH FELT ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT SHOULD BE WORTH MORE IN TERMS OF
INCREASED PATRONAGE. THE PRICE HAS BEEN PAID. THE DC WAS FORCED
TO SACRIFICE AN ASSESSORSHIP TO THE PSI. THE PSI'S DECISION TO RE-
JOIN THE GIUNTA MAY PORTEND NEW THINKING ON THEIR PART -- WHICH
EVENTUALLY COULD MEAN PARTICIPATION IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WHEN
AND IF "THE PRICE IS RIGHT". SOME STRONG ANTI-COMMUNISTS IN THE
CONSULAR DISTRICT INSIST THAT ONE OF THE PSI KINGPINS, GIACOMO
MANCINI CAN BE LEANED ON PRETTY HEAVILY AND COULD BE PERSUADED TO
HELP PUSH THE PSI PARTY IN THIS DIRECTION, PROVIDED OF COURSE THE
DC OFFERS ENOUGH MINISTRIES AND AGREES TO IMPLEMENT ECONOMIC AND
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OTHER JOINTLY APPROVED PROGRAMS. MANCINI'S EXCELLENT PERSONAL

RELATIONSHIP WITH PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI IS OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE
IN FACILITATING SUCH COLLABORATION.

2. IN A SCENE WHICH STILL HAS ITS LIMITS IN THE SOUTH, THE DOCUMENT
ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF THE TARANTO PROVINCIAL GIUNTA CAREFULLY
CALLS ON "ALL THE CONSTITUTIONAL FORCES" TO CONTRIBUTE "ALL OF THEIR
ENERGIES AND HUMAN RESOURCES" TO THE OPERATION OF THE PROVINCIAL
ADMINISTRATION. SINCE THE PCI IS THE ONLY "CONSTITUTIONAL FORCE" ON
THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL NOT TO HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE GIUNTA,
THE REFERENCE IS QUITE CLEAR. ON THE NUTS AND BOLTS POLITICAL

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LEVEL IT MEANS MORE INFLUENCE AND MORE JOBS UNDER PCI CONTROL. IN
TARANTO, THIS IS SIMPLE RECOGNITION OF POLITICAL REALITIES: (1)
THE PCI MADE SUBSTANTIAL GAINS IN THE RECENT ELECTION (2) THE DC
AND THE PCI ARE EVENLY MATCHED (11 TO 11) ON THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
AND (3) A COMMUNIST HAS BEEN INSTALLED AS MAYOR TO PRESIDE OVER A
MINORITY LEFTIST GIUNTA. COLANTONIO.

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